World's Largest Specialty Paper Mill

This aerial view of the Camas mill of the Crown Willamette Paper company shows the huge size of the paper mill. At the left are the docks, warehouse and sawmill. In the lower center is the converting plant with the main units of the mill, including the sulphite and sulphate plants, the paper machine buildings, bag factory and other buildings looming up in the center. To the right of the mill buildings may be seen the business center of the city. (Aerial Photo by Vail)

Fire Protection Equipment Keeps Losses at a Minimum

By O. T. Defieux

The seriousness of fire, resulting in a possible loss of life, wages, property and production, is recognized by all mill employes. Today before final plans for a new building extension are completed the subject of fire protection is carefully discussed by the mill management and engineers. In an effort to reduce fire losses to a minimum the mill is equipped with an extensive fire protection system.

The primary fire protection equipment consists of three steam driven reciprocating fire pumps, two of 1000 G. P. M. and one of 750 G. P. M. capacity. There is also one electric driven pump of 3000 G. P. M. capacity. Water supply to these pumps may be taken from three sources, the main mill supply, a 600,000 gallon pond storage under the new bag factory, or the settling pond at the water filtration plant, there being approximately 2,000,000 gallons available from storage at this latter point.

The fire pumps discharge into an extensive distribution setup, including both hydrants and sprinkler systems. In the event of failure of the fire pumps the system can utilize the first and second sources of supply under gravity pressure.

Have Auxiliary Equipment

The auxiliary equipment consists of numerous hose stations, various types of chemical extinguishers and necessary fire fighting tools.

The mill is divided into four zones with corresponding signals as follows: Zone 1, wood mill, chipper plant, No. 3 warehouse, dock and head shop; zone 2, paper mill, finishing, beater, shipping and wrapping rooms and machine shop; zone 3, converting plant, pump house, blacksmith, salvage and paint shops; zone 4, bag factories, sulphite, kraft and groundwood mills, wet rooms, bleach plant and steam plant. The fire signals correspond to the zone numbers, zone 1 receiving 1 blast, zone 2, two, etc.

In case of fire, signals will be blown three times, with one minute intervals. The blasts are to be of 10 seconds duration with 5 seconds between blasts. So if there was, for example, a fire in the second zone there would be a 10 seconds blast, then 5 seconds later another 10 seconds blast. After a minute's interval a second signal would be given, and a minute later the third.

Province Fire Chief

Frank Province is in charge of all fire protection equipment. An important organization is the volunteer fire brigade under the leadership of C. Pillette assisted by two captains, H. Rickard and L. Reitz with A. M. Patterson as secretary-treasurer and about 30 firemen. This group answers all fire calls and meet regularly to inspect mill fire equipment and to hold fire drills.

The new roadway into the mill yard, together with the installation of a pumper connection near the dock, allows of using the city fire trucks in emergency cases.

Realizing that cleanliness reduces the fire hazard, the fire fighting organization heartily endorses the mill management's program for "a clean mill at all times" and feel that the carrying out of this policy for the past number of years has been the major factor in maintaining fire losses at a minimum.

To produce the 74,000 tons of sulphite pulp which the Camas mill manufactures yearly, approximately 10,000 tons of sulphur and 12,000 tons of lime rock are used. About one-third of the sulphite pulp is bleached in the bleach plant and in this process approximately 2100 tons of chlorine are used.

Crown Willamette Paper Co. is one of the largest users of electric power in the Northwest. It takes an average of about 15,000 horsepower from Northwestern Electric Co.

Medical Service Given All Employes

To a great many people the services of a doctor are considered a luxury, no matter how much needed, and hospitalization is completely out of the question except for the very well-to-do who can stand the financial strain, or those so poor and humble in spirit that they will accept a free bed in a charity ward.

But for employes of the Crown Willamette" Paper company, the professional services of physicians and surgeons, hospitalization and medical supplies are available whenever needed through a contract entered into February 1, 1938, between the employes, the paper company and Drs. A. E. Bird, D. C. Urie and L. H. Carpenter, operating with the co-operation of all doctors of Camas and Washougal, under the business name of Camas Medical Service. This three year contract is called a "full coverage agreement," the purpose of which is to give medical care for sickness and accidents that occur to employes outside working hours.

Good Care Assured

The employe, injured or ill, has his choice of doctors and local physicians and surgeons attend to most cases. Where the need of specialists is indicated, patients are referred by attending physician directly to such specialists in Portland and Vancouver, where diagnosis and treatment are obtained.

Automobile accidents, home accidents, operations of all kinds, contagious diseases, sickness of all kinds have been cared for in scores and scores of cases during the past three years, and in a most satisfactory manner. In many cases employes would have been plunged into enormous debts by illness or accidents that have occurred and in some cases, no doubt, they would have lacked needed care had there not been this contract.

Expense Is $1.75 Monthly

The expense to each employe for the benefits of Camas Medical Service is $1.75 a month, which is deducted from pay checks. The benefits, in addition to physical care when most needed, include peace of mind and the satisfaction of knowing oneself to be well and fit, no humiliating assistance of charity, the avoidance of nerve-racking big doctor bills.

Home Insurance Also

With this full coverage contract goes hand in hand the Aetna insurance group life and sickness and accident insurance plan which pays a weekly benefit to employes who are off duty on account of sickness or any accident not occuring in the plant. Benefits under the following schedule, which is based on earnings, are payable for duration of disability but not to exceed 13 weeks for any one period of disability.

Life	Per Week	Monthly Premium
$1000	$10.00	$1.33
1000	10.00	1.33
1000	12.00	1.48
1000	17.00	1.84
1000	20.00	2.06
2000	20.00	3.39
3000	40.00	4.72

Employes over 70 are not eligible to receive sickness and accident benefits, but can carry life insurance at 60 cents per month.

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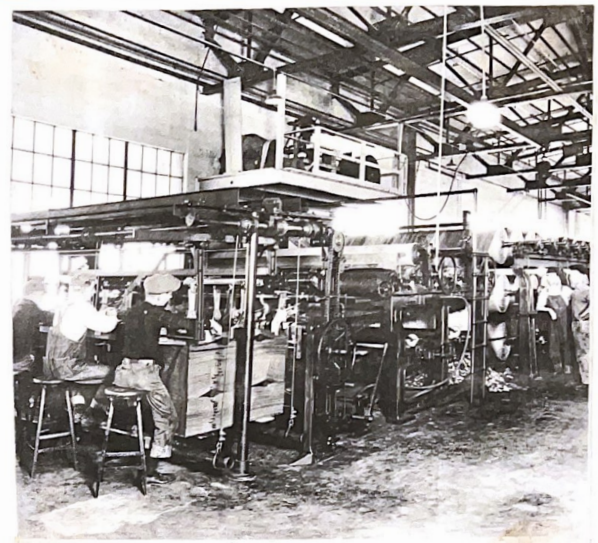
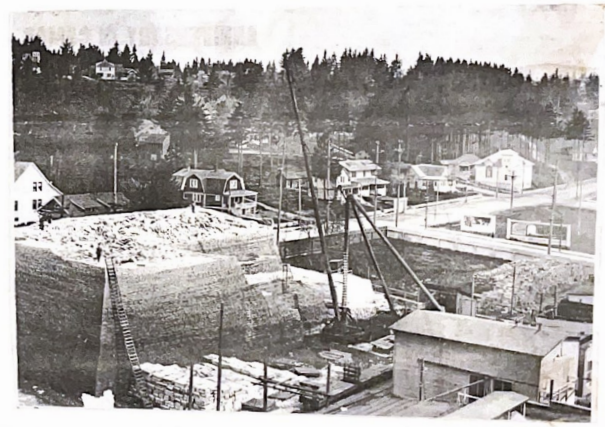


Two-color, two-roll fruit wrapper printers were used in the 1920's on both citrus and apple wrappers.



Sawdust brought in by truck, barge and rail is stored in a huge pile behind the wood mill before entering the mill.